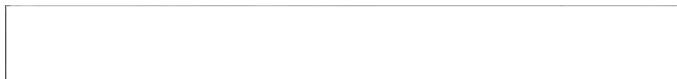




The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 14 January 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
14 JANUARY 1967

1. Communist China

Mao's "cornerstone of proletarian dictatorship," the People's Liberation Army, has developed some cracks.

The latest evidence of divided loyalty within the military establishment is provided today in the army's own journal. An editorial admits there are Mao opponents in the military leadership--"their influence permeates everywhere"--and describes the struggle between the army's pro and anti-Maoists as "acute and complicated."

The spasms of the cultural revolution continue to disrupt the national economy. Rail service is out or reduced in many areas and many factories are closed.

Tension remains high in Nanking and Shanghai. Mao's forces appear to have the upper hand in Shanghai, but there are continued indications of trouble in the city. There are suggestions that Nanking may be held by Mao's opponents.

2. South Vietnam

The Saigon embassy reports that talk about the ouster of General Co may well be producing a closer alliance between Co and Chief of State Thieu aimed at blocking such a move. In any case, the embassy doubts that any attempt against Co is likely before Ky's tour of Australia and New Zealand, which begins on the 18th.

3. France

De Gaulle's edict that his cabinet ministers will run for election to the National Assembly in March could backfire in Couve de Murville's case.

The French foreign minister is a Protestant running in a heavily Catholic Paris district. He also is up against an experienced old war horse who, if he is not bought off, will give Couve a close race indeed. The day will be decided on local issues alone, but a loss for Couve might look to the rest of the world like a repudiation of De Gaulle's foreign policy.

4. Nicaragua

The elections scheduled for 5 February seem to be nicely rigged in favor of General Somoza, but his opponent, Dr. Aguero, may try some last-minute theatrics. There are some indications that Aguero will try to promote civil violence near the end of the campaign in hopes of intervention by the Organization of American States. The national guard can probably control the situation, even though it would be rather heavy-handed about it.

5. Israel

If the Israelis are looking for an excuse to go on another raid against Syrian terrorists, they may have it now. An Israeli civilian was killed today when he stepped on a terrorist-planted landmine. The Israelis claim Syrian terrorists also tried to blow up a water-pumping station last night. Both incidents took place near Israel's border with Lebanon.

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